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the nest, just going to the hole and calling the young up for food, so there was no chance of capturing the old birds to see their numbers, so we climbed the ladder, and as we passed the lower hole, noticed four owl eggs, of a second sitting, were in the hole, but all broken.

It was necessary to saw out a piece of the tree to get our hand into the hole, and as we opened the hole, out came an owl. We were surprised and annoyed, and took out the four young Flickers and examined them very carefully, but they were not harmed in any way, so they were banded and replaced in the nest. Our curiosity was aroused about the owl. The next morning, the 12th, we watched the old Flickers feeding the same as ever, but finally decided to see if the owl was around. On reaching in the hole there was the owl, and we promptly threw her out. On examining the young Flickers, found they were unharmed. On the 13th, everything happened just the same as on the 12th. On the 14th the same thing was repeated, but on examining the young Flickers we found about half of some small bird which apparently the owl had attempted to feed the young Flickers, and after putting the young back in the nest they were so far advanced that two objected to such treatment, and left the nest.

On the 15th the old Flickers were feeding the same as ever, and investigation showed the old Owl still brooding the young Flickers, but the remaining two also objected to the irregularities, and left. For the next ten days we looked into all the holes, but the owl and the Flickers had all left. We have examined the holes occasionally since then, but have not found a trace of the Owl.

In our experience with animals we have known cats and dogs taking other young when their own had been taken away from them, and have known chickens to hover most anything they could find, but this was the first experience with wild birds. W. I. LYON.

#### WOODPECKERS SLEEP SOUNDLY

While banding birds there are many opportunities to study their habits. One interesting fact has developed from keeping birds indoors at night. In the shorter days of the winter months we are unable to be home before dark, but must visit the traps as soon as possible, for leaving birds in traps all night invites many disasters from storms, cats, rats, weasels, owls, etc.

On such nights, when the birds have been gathered from the traps and taken to the house to read the numbers of repeats, and band the new ones, it would be cruel to turn them out into the dark when they cannot find a roost, so they are sorted, separating the sizes to prevent fights and crowding in the small cages. On such occasions the birds are kept in our basement, where it is cool, and when we have occasion to go to the basement later, on turning on the lights, the Sparrows and Finches are always awake in an instant, but the Downy Woodpeckers all seem to sleep so soundly that we have walked past them to the next room, shaken the furnace, put the coal in, then pass them again without their awakening. It aroused our curiosity and we watched them very carefully, and they slept soundly.

Brown Creepers are even better sleepers than the Downys, and can be touched lightly without awaking them.

One or two cases of the Red headed Woodpecker showed the same tendency. The White-breasted Nuthatch is another sound sleeper, but the Chickadee outdoes them all, and when they are touched to awaken them, they are generally mad and most of them scold.

Lately we had two Hairy Woodpeckers, and we watched them very closely, to see what they would do, but could not catch them, even asleep.

We had a few Flickers, but they were not sound sleepers, and the one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that was trapped, slept through having the lights turned on in the room near his cage.

These observations make us believe that the birds that sleep in protected places sleep more soundly than those that perch in the more open places.

#### HOW FAR DO BIRDS GO WHEN THEY FLY SOUTH?

The marking of migratory water-fowl, as practiced by the collaborators of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, has given evidence that it will be a most interesting and important investigation. Although the work has been in progress for only two years, notable results have already been secured.

The ducks and other birds, whose movements are being studied by this method, are caught, mainly by the use of special traps, light aluminum bands placed on one leg, and then released. Every band bears a serial number and the legend, "Biol. Surv., Wash., D. C." In the Washington office of the Biological Survey, these banded birds are card indexed so that when a hunter secures a duck bearing one of these bands and reports the data connected with its capture, by referring to the card file, the route covered by the bird in question can be easily ascertained. When such records are received, the hunter is advised where the bird was banded, while the person who attached the band is informed where it was secured.

During the fall shooting seasons for the last few years, a large number of mallards and black ducks, with a few blue-winged teal and other species, have been banded at a small lake about twenty miles north of Toronto, Ontario, and many interesting returns have been received.

#### *Long Range Record*

The best "long range" record for these Canadian ducks is that of a blue-winged teal, banded September 24, 1920, and killed two months and seven days later, in the Caroni Swamp, near Port of Spain, on the island of Trinidad, just off the coast of Venezuela. The shortest flight that this bird could have made would be over 3,000 miles. It is a well-known fact that blue-winged teals and certain other ducks that breed in North America spend the winter season in South America, but it was rather a surprise to learn that those individuals that had bred in Canada would make the long flight to South America, because the species also winters in small numbers in the Gulf region, and it is to that area that the more northern birds might be expected to go.

The return records of ducks of other species, banded near Toronto,